

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (elected) A high level disinfecting composition comprising an aqueous solution having a pH less than 7 and which contains a conjugated alphatic dialdehyde in an amount effective to achieve high level disinfection as determined by the ability of said composition to kill all bacterial cells and spores in contact with said composition when exposed to said composition for a time and at a temperature sufficient to exert its biocidal effect.
2. (elected) A high level disinfecting composition comprising an aqueous solution having a pH less than 7 and which contains an amount of conjugated alphatic dialdehyde effective to achieve high level disinfection as determined by the ability of said composition to kill all microorganisms in contact with said composition within 30 minutes at 20⁰C.
3. (elected) A high level disinfecting composition of claim 2 wherein the bacterial cells are *Mycobacterium bovis* BCG.

4. (elected) A high level disinfecting composition of claim 2 in which the conjugated alphatic dialdehyde has less than 8 carbons and at least one aldehyde group adjacent to a double bond.
5. (elected) A high level disinfecting composition of claim 2 in which the conjugated alphatic dialdehyde is 2-butenedial.
6. (elected) A high level disinfecting composition of claim 2 which further comprises surfactants, glycols, corrosion inhibitors, antioxidants, sequesterent, odor surpressants, dye and fragrance.
7. not elected.
8. not elected
9. not elected
10. (elected) A sterilizing composition comprising an aqueous solution having a pH less than 9 and which contains an amount of conjugated alphatic dialdehyde effective to sterilization as determined by the ability of said composition to kill all micro-organic spores in contact with said composition within 32 hours at 20⁰C.
11. (elected) A sterilizing composition of claim 10 wherein the micro-organic spores are that of of Bacillus subtilis and Clostridium sporogenes.

12. (elected) A sterilizing composition of claim 10 in which the conjugated alphatic dialdehyde has less than 8 carbons and at least one aldehyde group adjacent to a double bond.
13. (elected) A sterilizing composition of claim 10 in which the conjugated alphatic dialdehyde is 2-butenedial.
14. (elected) A sterilizing composition of claim 10 which further comprises surfactants, corrosion inhibitors, antioxidants, sequesterent, odor surpressants, dye and fragrance.
15. not elected
16. not elected
17. not elected